

THE WHIG STANDARD.



"Flag of the free! thy folds shall fly,
The sign of hope and triumph nigh."

FOR PRESIDENT,
HENRY CLAY.
FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN.

WASHINGTON.
TUESDAY EVENING, OCT'R 1, 1844.

COL. POLK'S DEMAGOGUEISM.

In 1840, James K. Polk travelled over the State of Tennessee, making speeches against and ridiculing General Harrison, whom he called "General Mum," the "Mum Candidate," &c., because, he said, and in the most sneering manner too, with his face covered all over with those farcical grins which are so peculiar to him,—General Harrison had refused to answer the inquiries which respectable gentlemen and committees had addressed to him; he had no opinions for the public eye!

Now how changed! James K. Polk is a candidate himself for the Presidency—and he is fifty times as *mum* and *dum* as was the noble old General whom he so abused, belied, and slandered, in 1840! He answers no inquiries addressed to him by respectable gentlemen or committees. He has no present opinions for the public eye! What a deceptive, tricky demagogue!

But this is not all. We learn, from the Nashville whig papers, that although Mr. Polk has no opinions for the public eye which he will furnish under his own name, yet he can furnish data in abundance for the most outrageous misrepresentations of and attacks upon the Whig party in general, and Governor Jones in particular, through the columns of his confidential organ, the Nashville Union.

That paper is edited by Samuel Laughlin, a man who lost all the character he ever had long ago, and who for years past has been "lying out of every pore of his hide." He has recently, by the aid of the subject of his eulogy, given to the world a most fulsome and untruthful Biography of the Locofoco candidate for the Presidency, which has been most beautifully and elegantly riddled by the able editor of the Nashville Whig. We know not when we have seen a piece of work so thoroughly and genteely executed. We doubt not Colonel Polk most devoutly wishes that the Biography had never been commenced. We observe in Saturday's Globe an article, eulogistic of Colonel Polk, from this same Nashville Union, which contains two or three statements which we will notice.

1. It claims great merit for Colonel Polk, because he wrote to Mr. Grundy, a member of the Baltimore Convention in 1840, not to press his name for the Vice Presidency, if it should be found to be in the way of harmonious action. Most gentlemen, whose names are before a Convention, do this without claiming merit therefor. But what were the facts in regard to Col. Polk. His papers in Tennessee had all hoisted his name at the mast head as their candidate for the Vice Presidency. Two or three papers in other States had done the same. And this was all. There was not the slightest chance of his getting the nomination. He saw this, as every body else did, and hence his very disinterested letter to Mr. Grundy!

2. It claims credit for Col. Polk, because, in the exciting contest of 1840, he declared himself a candidate for re-election as Governor. Now when did he do this, and how came he to do it? He did it the 4th of July, at Knoxville, after he had been three months in the field making electioneering speeches, whilst the people were calling upon him in all directions to come out and say candidly whether he was running for re-election as Governor, or for Vice President, or for both stations! In many instances, scores of freemen who had voted for him the year previous, signed their names to loud calls upon him to define his position and acknowledge what place he was running for! His name was still flying in all his papers as a candidate for Vice President. At last the times became too hot for him, and he was forced, literally compelled, to speak out, as he did at Knoxville, and take his position. He received one vote for Vice President!

3. It claims credit for Colonel Polk, for having, after being beaten in 1841, by Gov. Jones, when the Whigs had the majority in the Legislature, declined being considered a candidate for the United States Senate—to be beaten, of course! He told his friends that he had fallen, and would go to his home—he would go back to the people, and if he rose again, would rise from the people. All very fine, seeing he was down flat, and very much after the style of the demagogue. But did he go home, to the people, and be quiet? Far from it. He saw that he had no chance for the United States Senate from the Legislature then in power; but if the election of others could, by

any base, revolutionary movement, be defeated, another effort might secure a Legislature of a more favorable complexion—and then he could be a Senator in Congress! With this view he set on his tools in the State Senate of 1841 to defeat or prevent, at all hazards, the election of United States Senators. In this, James K. Polk accomplished his object. By a vile, abominable, revolutionary refusal on the part of thirteen Senators, to meet the House in convention, agreeably to the constitution, laws, and precedence, which had been implicitly followed ever since Tennessee had been a State, no Senators could be chosen by that Legislature—and the State had to remain unrepresented in the United States Senate two years longer in consequence! In 1843, however, the arch demagogue was again defeated for Governor, by an indignant and an insulted people, and a Legislature, Whig in both branches, was secured, which elected Senators to Congress—neither of whom, thanks to the honesty and energy of the freemen of Tennessee! happened to be James K. Polk.

LANGDON CHEVES—DISUNION.

The spirit of Chivalry has so completely nullified or extinguished all common sense in South Carolina, that few, of those who would be styled politicians in that State, have any grains of that homely quality left. In so saying, we are far from meaning, by indirection, to do injustice to the small band of Whigs of the Palmetto States; but the contrary. Those who have borne up against the inundation of bombastic pride and arrogance which have overwhelmed the land, evince a soundheadedness rarely to be met with.

We would respectfully suggest to the Tract Societies, or other benevolent associations, the propriety of disseminating in South Carolina, upon the cheap plan of publication recently commenced, the works of Cervantes. The fire-eating Chivalry can certainly never have heard of the far-famed Don Quixotte. They cannot possibly be aware of the danger of attacking a windmill sword in hand. No feat of Don Quixotte can surpass the marvellous folly of the attempt of little South Carolina to dictate law to this country; yet nothing less is attempted. A mere handful of people, only two hundred and sixty thousand, not the most enlightened, or most distinguished for patriotic services, threaten to dissolve the Union, because they are not permitted to dictate to twenty millions! Was anything more ridiculous ever conceived? The single city of New York has, at this time, including its environs, nearly twice as many free citizens as South Carolina. As to wealth, New York city, we have not a doubt, is worth five, perhaps ten times the State of South Carolina. We mention these facts not to be invidious, but to show how thoroughly ridiculous are the bravadoes of South Carolina, and how impotent, in herself, to consummate her mischievous plans! But South Carolina has wooed and been wooed by the Locofoco party in connection with the despicable scheme of annexing Texas to the Union; and in that point of view her threats are worthy of serious consideration, and cannot fail to influence the people of the Union in their choice of a President.

Mr. Langdon Cheves, a gentleman of talents and high character, but long since retired from public life, has recently published a letter upon annexation in the genuine spirit of Chivalry. We had expected from a man of his mature judgment, sentiments of a far different tenor; but his ultra views upon the Texas question serve to show what is the feeling of the Locofoco party in South Carolina. Nothing could be clearer than that the Chivalry, including Gen. Hamilton, now of Alabama, and perhaps Walker, of Mississippi, cherish a settled purpose of dissolving the Union, unless they are permitted to annex Texas in defiance of the great body of the American people—in contempt of the Constitution—and in violation of solemn treaties.

Will the brave hearted freemen of this country be dragged into the nefarious scheme of annexation by the bullying Chivalry of South Carolina? Will they cowardly, meanly, and pusillanimously, like the Locofoco Baltimore Convention, surrender their cherished principles to the Calhouns and Walkers and Hamiltons?

Mr. Cheves proclaims that we (South Carolina) must have Texas at any cost—that is to say, at the price of National perfidy, war, and the assumption of a foreign debt. The very men who have for years charged the Whigs with a wish to assume our own State debts, are doing all in their power to assume a vast debt, and a war, of a foreign country.

But the most chimerical scheme for relieving the Texans, which we have yet seen, is that projected by Mr. Cheves. It is well his financial laurels were earned long ago, before the invention of Nullification—he certainly will gain none by his new project. His plan is for the Southern States to loan to Texas funds for carrying on the war with Mexico! Has Mr. Cheves, Rip Van Winkle-like, been sleeping these twenty years past? Has he forgotten that the States of this Union are heels over head in debt? Does he not know that they owe millions which they can never pay? Would he tax our people, already ground to the earth, for the sake of fighting the battles of Texas? Or would he repudiate our own debts in order to assume those of Texas? Under all the circumstances, we protest we have never heard anything more preposterous.

We are not among those who entertain either hopes or fears of Mr. Polk's election; but supposing for one moment such a result, what, we ask, must be the consequence? Will not the annexation of Texas be the first and great mea-

sure of his administration? Will it not be clamorously demanded by those who have staked the Union upon the issue? But the Senate, it may be presumed, would firmly adhere to the position it now holds; and the probability is that Northern Locofocos, uninfluenced by an immediately approaching Presidential contest, would range themselves in opposition to the scheme, so that after all, Texas cannot be legally annexed. In such a state of things, the course of the Chivalry would be plain. Their first step would be to declare, by legislative ordinance, the dissolution of the Union. Mr. Polk, so far from taking steps to counteract their treasonable machinations, in all probability would side with them—at all events, being a mere man of buckram, he would be totally unfit to meet the crisis—totally impotent for good.

Let the people go to the polls, therefore, with a consciousness that the present is the most important Presidential election ever held. Never was there a time when an able, resolute, and patriotic man was more needed at the head of affairs. Henry Clay is that man—his opponent, James K. Polk, being at the same time as near what may be called a political nobody as can be imagined.

MR. CLAY AND THE CATHOLICS.

The infamous efforts that have been made to represent Mr. Clay as opposed to Catholics, is thus for ever set at rest in a letter to the Rev. DEMETRIUS A. GALITZIN, a Catholic clergyman. MR. CLAY remarks:

"You do me no more than justice in supposing me incapable of any feelings of prejudice, or entertaining any spirit of intolerance toward the CATHOLIC RELIGION. I have, on the contrary, the HIGHEST RESPECT FOR IT, and count among its members some of my best and truest friends. I am mortified and grieved to think that any one should have misconceived me."

A FAILURE.

The Locofoco procession, which took place last night, was a failure, both as to strength and appearance. The whole number in the ranks, men and boys included, we are assured by gentlemen who counted them, was three thousand. There was a manifest lack of the enthusiasm observable in times gone by, and although the Democracy had been called upon to illuminate, the responding lights were few indeed, and far between.—*Baltimore American of this morning.*

GEN. MARKLE AND LESLIE COMBS.

A pleasing incident, connected with the General's visit to Bedford, Pa., (says the Inquirer,) was the meeting between the old hero and one of his companions in arms—Gen. Leslie Combs, of Kentucky—after a separation of upwards of thirty years. The gallant Kentuckian was passing through Bedford, and hearing of the General's presence, at once sought him out. He approached him and said, "General, I am Leslie Combs of Kentucky. I have been travelling through a portion of your State, and I have felt myself bound, wherever I have gone, to bear testimony to your gallantry, your worth, and your services to your country. I remember well the high estimate placed by your commander-in-chief, General Harrison, and the people of the West, at the time, upon the victory you achieved at Mississinewa, and was an eye-witness to your daring sortie at Fort Meigs." Turning round to those present, he said—"Gentlemen, General Markle is bound to be elected Governor of this State—he will be elected; but if by any accident you should fail in electing him, send him to Kentucky, where we can appreciate worth like his, and we will elect him Governor there."

The Centreville (Queen Anne's county, Md.) Times of Saturday, contains a Card signed by Mr. J. Campbell and Mr. W. C. Campbell, of Bridgetown, Caroline county, in which they formally renounce all adhesion to the Polk party, and declare their intention to support Henry Clay for the Presidency, and "Whig men and measures" on all occasions. They say—

We believe it to be Democratic to support the protective tariff.

We believe it to be Democratic to distribute the proceeds of the public domain in their rateable portions among the States.

We believe it to be Democratic to restrict the veto power, so as to make it subservient to decided majorities of Congress.

We believe it to be Democratic for Congress to establish such an institution as shall be competent to regulate the currency and exchanges so as to be uniform throughout the Union, without regard to whatsoever name the same may be called.

The editor of the Centreville Times, speaking of these renunciations, says—"We know of some six or eight more persons, who, like these gentlemen, have come out from the Polk party in Caroline county, and openly declare they 'have quit that party new and for ever.'"

The Hon. James Pollock was re-nominated for Congress, by the conferees of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, without a dissenting voice and by acclamation! A just tribute to his inflexible integrity as a man and his untiring exertions as a Whig.

We learn from the Louisville Journal that the Naval Commission, consisting of Capt. Rousseau, Commander Adams, and Lieut. Johnson, have just secured the titles for the site of the Navy Yard at Memphis, and the titles have been forwarded for the approval of the Government. The whole cost of the site was \$20,000, the city of Memphis liberally contributing its interest in the commons in out of the city. The Commissioners have devised a plan for the works, and should the whole be completed, according to the plan, the effect from the river will be very fine.

A LETTER FROM MR. CLAY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

ASHLAND, September 23, 1844.

GENTLEMEN: Since my nomination at Baltimore in May last, by the Whig Convention, as a candidate for the office of President of the United States, I have received many letters propounding to me questions on public affairs, and others may have been addressed to me which I have never received. To most of those which have reached me I have replied; but to some I have not, because either the subjects of which they treated were such as that, in respect of them, my opinions, I thought, had been sufficiently promulgated, or that they did not possess, in my judgment, sufficient importance to require an answer from me. I desire now to say to the public, through you, that, considering the near approach of the Presidential election, I shall henceforward respectfully decline to transmit for publication any letters from me in answer to inquiries upon public matters.

After my nomination, I doubted the propriety, as I still do, of answering any letters upon new questions of public policy. One who may be a candidate for the Chief Magistracy of the Nation, if elected, ought to enter upon the discharge of the high duties connected with that office with his mind open and uncommitted upon all new questions which may arise in the course of its administration, and ready to avail himself of all the lights which he may derive from his Cabinet, from Congress, and, above all, from the public opinion.

If, in advance, he should commit himself to individuals who may think proper to address him, he may deprive the public and himself of the benefit of those great guides. Entertaining this view, it was my intention, after my nomination, to decline answering for publication all questions that might be propounded to me. But, on further reflection, it appeared to me that if I imposed this silence upon myself, I might, contrary to the uniform tenor of my life, seem to be unwilling frankly and fearlessly to submit my opinions to the public judgment. I therefore so far deviated from my first purpose as to respond to letters addressed to me, making inquiries in regard to subjects which had been much agitated. Of the answers which I so transmitted, some were intended exclusively for the satisfaction of my correspondents, without any expectation on my part of their being deemed worthy of publication. In regard to those which have been presented to the public, misconceptions and erroneous constructions have been given to some of them which I think they did not authorize, or which, at all events, were contrary to my intentions.

In announcing my determination to permit no other letters to be drawn from me on public affairs, I think it right to avail myself of the occasion to correct the erroneous interpretation of one or two of those which I had previously written. In April last I addressed to you, from Raleigh, a letter in respect to the proposed treaty annexing Texas to the United States, and I have since addressed two letters to Alabama upon the same subject. Most unwarranted allegations have been made that those letters are inconsistent with each other, and, to make it out, particular phrases or expressions have been torn from their context, and a meaning attributed to me which I never entertained.

I wish now distinctly to say that there is not a feeling, a sentiment, or an opinion expressed in my Raleigh letter to which I do not adhere. I am decidedly opposed to the immediate annexation of Texas to the United States. I think it would be dishonorable, might involve them in war, would be dangerous to the integrity and harmony of the Union, and, if all these objections were removed, could not be effected, according to any information I possess, upon just and admissible conditions.

It was not my intention, in either of the two letters which I addressed to Alabama, to express any contrary opinion. Representations had been made to me that I was considered as inflexibly opposed to the annexation of Texas under any circumstances; and that my opposition was so extreme that I would not waive it, even if there were a general consent to the measure by all the States of the Union. I replied, in my first letter to Alabama, that personally I had no objection to annexation. I thought that my meaning was sufficiently obvious, that I had no personal, private, or individual motives for opposing, as I have none for espousing the measure; my judgment being altogether influenced by general and political considerations, which have ever been the guide of my public conduct.

In my second letter to Alabama, assuming that the annexation of Texas might be accomplished without national dishonor, without war, with the general consent of the States of the Union, and upon fair and reasonable terms, I stated that I should be glad to see it. I did not suppose that it was possible I could be misunderstood. I imagined every body would comprehend me as intending that, whatever might be my particular views and opinions, I should be happy to see what the whole nation might concur in desiring under the conditions stated. Nothing was further from my purpose than to intimate any change of opinion as long as any considerable and respectable portion of the Confederacy should continue to stand out in opposition to the annexation of Texas.

In all three of my letters upon the subject of Texas, I stated that annexation was inadmissible except upon fair and reasonable terms, if every other objection were removed. In a speech which I addressed to the Senate of the United States more than three years ago, I avowed my opposition, for the reasons there stated, to the assumption, by the General Government, of the debts of the several States. It was hardly, therefore, to be presumed that I could be in favor of assuming the unascertained debt of a foreign State, with which we have no fraternal ties, and whose bad faith or violation of its engagements can bring no reproaches upon us.

Having thus, gentlemen, made the apology which I intended, for my omission to answer any letters of inquiry upon public affairs which I may have received; I announced my purpose to decline henceforward transmitting answers for publication to any such letters that I may hereafter receive; and vindicated some of those which I have forwarded against the erroneous constructions to which they have been exposed, I have accomplished the purpose of this note, and remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. CLAY.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON.

OLD MONTGOMERY AWAKE.

THREE THOUSAND WHIGS IN COUNCIL—THE RIGHT SPIRIT ROUSED IN MARYLAND.

[Reported for the Whig Standard.]

Yesterday was a proud day for the Whigs of the good old State of Maryland, and the unflinching sons of Montgomery. The weather, which for a few days had been extremely inclement, proved most favorable, the day being fine and pleasant, and the air cool and bracing. At an early hour in the day, the various avenues leading to the town of Rockville (the place selected for the meeting) were thronged with the sturdy freemen of Montgomery, from the various districts of Cracklin, Clarksburg, Medley's and Berry's, all imbued with the right spirit, and evincing that they, in view of the State contest to-morrow, and the great conflict in November, were "all ready!" From Georgetown and this city a delegation of about 200 went up in stages, furniture wagons, buggies, and other conveyances, each appropriately decorated with flags, banners, &c., with the glorious names of the Whig candidates inscribed on each. The District delegation were received on the road, by a committee of 200 horsemen, and escorted into the town, where they were met by the loud and joyful plaudits of the Whigs of Montgomery, and the smiles and waving of handkerchiefs from the ladies—hundreds of whom were upon the porches and porticoes of the houses.

At 12 o'clock, the procession was organized by Wm. M. Steuart, Chief Marshal, and moved through the town to a beautiful grove about half a mile distant, in the following order:

Chief Marshal and aids;
Mounted horsemen;
Clay Clubs of Washington and Georgetown, with their Glee Clubs;
The Whigs of Montgomery by Election Districts, viz: Clarksburg, Medley's, Cracklin, Berry's, and Rockville.

Upon arriving at the ground, the meeting was called to order, and the proceedings opened with a very feeling and appropriate prayer by the Rev. Dr. Mines, of the Presbyterian Church. The venerable minister dwelt eloquently upon the advantages of our glorious Union, deprecating the slightest allusion to its severance, and praying fervently for its undisturbed continuance.

After the prayer, which was listened to with the most respectful attention throughout, the company repaired to the tables which were spread in another part of the grove, and then partook of the good things of life, which were there in the most bounteous profusion. The ladies were waited upon at separate tables.

Dinner being over, the crowd repaired to the stand, and, after listening to the singing of some good Whig songs by the Rockville, Georgetown, and Washington Clay Glee Clubs, the President of the day introduced REVERDY JOHNSON, Esq., of Baltimore, who was received with the heartiest and long-continued plaudits.

Mr. Johnson then addressed the meeting in an able and argumentative speech, (of which we regret our inability to give even a sketch,) in which he exposed the double-dealing of the present so-called "Democratic" party—its departure from the ancient landmarks of Democracy, as understood and practiced by even their own leaders, Jackson, Van Buren, and James K. Polk himself. He then took up the great principles of the Whig party, showing their consistency throughout, and dwelling particularly upon the tariff and its natural adjunct, the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, a measure of such great magnitude and importance to the people of Maryland. Mr. J. concluded with a glowing description of the enthusiasm of the Whigs of Baltimore, and expressing his firm conviction that in the contest to-morrow the majority there would exceed that of Montgomery, even if she went beyond three hundred.

Mr. Johnson spoke upwards of two hours, and was frequently interrupted by the hearty cheers of the multitude. We have had the pleasure of listening often to this distinguished gentleman, and are free to say that we consider his speech at Rockville on yesterday one of his happiest efforts.

Hon. GARRETT DAVIS, of Kentucky, was next introduced, and the reception given this gentleman was most enthusiastic and cheering. They hailed him as a native of old Montgomery, and the representative of that district in Kentucky which is honored by the residence of the greatest living statesman, HENRY CLAY. And well did the gallant son of old Cracklin sustain the high reputation which he has acquired in the councils of the nation. His exhortation of Locofocoism was severe and scathing, and his comparison (if such a word can be used in speaking of the men) of the claims and merits of the rival candidates for the Presidency was eloquent and masterly. Mr. D. gave a glowing account of the Whig spirit in the East, the North, and the centre, through which he had but lately passed, and assured them that nothing was wanting but the arrival of election day to declare Henry Clay and Theodore Frelinghuysen President and Vice President of this great and glorious Republic. Mr. D. concluded by exhorting the Whigs of good old Maryland not to be behind in the struggle, but by vigorous and united action from now until November, place her foremost in the gallant array of Whig States.

At the conclusion of Mr. Davis's speech, owing to the lateness of the hour, the meeting adjourned, with the understanding, as we learn, (having been obliged to return to the city,) that the meeting would be continued at the courthouse in town after night.

This meeting is said by those who were present at both to have been much larger than the one in 1840, and it was estimated that between three and four thousand persons were in attendance, five hundred of whom were ladies.

The right spirit is awake in Montgomery, as it is indeed throughout Maryland, and we look to her verdict upon Locofocoism, at the election to-morrow, with the fullest confidence that she will be "right side up."

RAILROAD IN CANADA.—It appears that a serious project is on foot to build a railroad from Boston to Canada, through Bennington, Vermont, and that Thomas H. Perkins has subscribed \$60,000, Abbott Lawrence \$20,000, and that the amount of cost, whatever it may be, will be taken up by wealthy capitalists.

There are, according to the report of the Croton Board, but 8,017 persons who take the Croton water. The rent for the last year was \$114,000.